

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 6 and 16 as indicated below. The status of all pending claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A fluid flow stabilizer for use in a flow of fluid in a conduit between a turbulence creating device and a fluid control device, comprising:

a fluid conduit section having a first end, including a first flange, for mounting said first end to said fluid conduit and a second end, including a second flange, for mounting said second end to said fluid conduit, said fluid conduit section having a ~~length,~~ length defined between said first flange and said second flange, an internal diameter, and a fluid passage therethrough to allow said fluid to flow from said first end to said second end,

a flow straightening device positioned in said fluid conduit section, wherein at least a portion of said flow straightening device has a diameter less than said internal diameter of said fluid conduit section, and further wherein said flow straightening device comprises one or more longitudinally extending vanes, wherein ~~at least portions of~~ radially outer edges of said vanes contact one of said first and second flanges, but are separated from said internal diameter of a remainder of said fluid conduit section, such that a space is defined therebetween;

said fluid conduit section being constructed of a flexible material to absorb at least one of shock, vibration and mis-alignment in said conduit.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The fluid flow stabilizer of claim 1, wherein said fluid conduit section comprises a flexible metal hose.

4. (Original) The fluid flow stabilizer of claim 1, wherein said fluid conduit section comprises an elastomeric material.

5. (Previously Presented) The fluid flow stabilizer of claim 1, wherein said length of said fluid conduit section is less than five times said internal diameter.

6. (Currently Amended) A pipe flow stabilizer for use in a pipeline between a turbulence creating device and a fluid control device, comprising:

a fluid conduit section having a first end, including a first flange, with a mounting arrangement for mounting said first end to said pipeline and a second end, including a second flange, with a mounting arrangement for mounting said second end to said pipeline, said fluid conduit section having a length, an internal diameter, and a fluid passage therethrough to allow fluid to flow from said first end to said second end,

a flow straightening device in said fluid conduit section, wherein at least a portion of said flow straightening device has a diameter less than said internal diameter of said fluid conduit and further wherein said flow straightening device comprises at least four

vanes, with each vane arranged perpendicular to adjacent vanes, and wherein at least portions of radially outer edges of said vanes contact one of said first and second flanges, but are separated from said internal diameter of a remainder of said fluid conduit section, such that a space is defined therebetween;

said fluid conduit section being constructed of a flexible material to absorb at least one of shock, vibration and mis-alignment in said pipeline.

7. (Original) The pipe flow stabilizer of claim 6, wherein said turbulence creating device and said mounting arrangement at said first end is configured to mount directly to an outlet of said pump.

8. (Original) The pipe flow stabilizer of claim 6, wherein said fluid control device comprises a valve and said mounting arrangement at said second end is configured to mount directly to an inlet of said valve.

9. (Original) The pipe flow stabilizer of claim 6, wherein said conduit comprises a flexible metal hose.

10. (Original) The pipe flow stabilizer of claim 6, wherein said conduit comprises an elastomeric material.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The pipe flow stabilizer of claim 6, wherein said vanes are contained entirely within the length of said fluid conduit.

13. (Previously Presented) The pipe flow stabilizer of claim 6, wherein said vanes have a hydrodynamic shape including at least one curve.

14. (Original) The pipe flow stabilizer in claim 6, wherein at least one of said first mounting arrangement and said second mounting arrangement comprises a flange with a series of spaced bolt holes extending therethrough.

15. (Previously Presented) The pipe flow stabilizer of claim 6, wherein said length of said fluid conduit is less than five times said internal diameter.

16. (Currently Amended) A pipe flow stabilizer for use in a pipeline between a pump and a valve, comprising:

a pump ~~connecting~~ connector having a first end with a first mounting arrangement for mounting said first end to said pump and a second end with a second mounting arrangement for mounting said second end to said valve, said pump connector having a fluid passage therethrough to allow fluid to flow from said first end to said second

end, said pump connector having a linear fluid conduit section with a length, extending between said first and second ends, and an internal diameter, said length being less than five times the diameter, and

a flow straightening device in said linear fluid conduit section of said pump connector, wherein said pump connector is constructed of a flexible material to absorb at least one of shock, vibration and mis-alignment in said pipeline, while imparting no thrust load to a remainder of said pipeline.

17. (Previously Presented) The pipe flow stabilizer of claim 16, wherein at least a portion of said flow straightening device has a diameter less than said internal diameter of said fluid conduit section such that a space is defined therebetween.

18. (Original) The pipe flow stabilizer of claim 16, wherein said pump connector comprises a flexible metal hose.

19. (Original) The pipe flow stabilizer of claim 16, wherein said pump connector comprises an elastomeric material.

20. (Original) The pipe flow stabilizer of claim 16, wherein said flow straightening device comprises one or more vanes extending longitudinally in said conduit.

21. (Original) The pipe flow stabilizer of claim 20, wherein said flow straightening device comprises four vanes, with each vane arranged perpendicular to adjacent vanes.

22. (Original) The pipe flow stabilizer of claim 20, wherein said vanes are contained entirely within the length of said pump connector.

23-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) A pipe flow stabilizer for use in a pipeline between a pump and a turbulence creating partially opened valve, comprising:

a fluid conduit section having a first end with a mounting arrangement for mounting said first end directly to an outlet of said pump and a second end with a mounting arrangement for mounting said second end directly to an inlet of said turbulence creating partially opened valve, said fluid conduit section having a fluid passage therethrough to allow fluid to flow from said first end to said second end, said fluid conduit section having a length and an internal diameter, said length being less than five times the diameter,

a flow straightening device in said fluid conduit section, wherein at least a portion of said flow straightening device has a diameter less than said internal diameter of said fluid conduit section;

said fluid conduit section being constructed of a flexible metal material to absorb at least one of shock, vibration and mis-alignment in said pipeline.

28-29. (Canceled).